

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

1-19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for managing scan-based input, comprising:

receiving a plurality of barcodes at a server from a customer;

resolving each of the plurality of barcodes into a corresponding plurality of product identifiers, said plurality of product identifiers stored in a product database in communication with said server;

creating a catalog including the plurality of barcodes and a corresponding plurality of product descriptions arranged such that each barcode of the plurality of barcodes is located in proximity of a product description of the plurality of product descriptions which it identifies;

sending the catalog to the customer;

receiving a selection of a first product in response to a barcode of said plurality of barcodes in the catalog being scanned by the customer;

determining whether said first product is available by querying said product database;

if based on whether it is determined that said first product is not available by querying said product database, determining whether a substitute product is indicated in a substitute table;

if based on whether said first product is determined not to have a substitute product indicated in the substitute table, searching for at least one ~~product~~-substitute product in the product database by comparing attributes of the first product to attributes of products in the product database;

if based on whether at least one ~~product~~-substitute product is found in the product database, ~~adding the at least one product substitute to the substitute table and~~ sending the customer a recommendation of the at least one ~~product~~-substitute product found in the product database;

receiving approval indicating an approved substitute product selected from among the at least one substitute product found in the product database from the customer in response to the

recommendation of ~~the a-product~~ at least one substitute product found in the product database;  
and

in response to the approval, saving the approved substitute product in a shopping cart of the customer and adding the approved substitute product to the substitute table such that a future check of the substitute table for the first product would indicate the approved substitute product.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein sending the customer catalog to the customer comprises sending the customer a markup language file including the catalog.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising:  
calculating a degree of closeness between the ~~at least one product~~ approved substitute product and the first product; and  
storing the degree of closeness in the substitute table.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein a product is not available is if it is out of stock.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising:  
determining whether a particular barcode of the plurality of barcodes is stored in said product database;  
if the particular barcode is not stored in said product database, querying at least one code registry to locate a particular ~~product~~ product-substitute product;  
sending the customer a recommendation of the particular ~~product~~ product-substitute product;  
receiving approval from the customer in response to the recommendation of the particular ~~product~~ product-substitute product; and  
in response to the approval from the customer in response to the recommendation of the particular ~~product~~ product-substitute product, resolving the particular barcode into a product identifier of the particular ~~product~~ product-substitute product.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method for facilitating purchases, comprising:

receiving a plurality of barcodes at a server from a customer;

resolving each of the plurality of barcodes into a corresponding plurality of product identifiers, said plurality of product identifiers stored in a product database in communication with said server;

creating a catalog including the plurality of barcodes and a corresponding plurality of product descriptions arranged such that each barcode of the plurality of barcodes is located in proximity of a product description of the plurality of product descriptions which it identifies;

sending the catalog to the customer;

receiving a selection of a first product in response to a barcode of said plurality of barcodes in the catalog being scanned by the customer;

determining whether said first product is available by querying said product database;

~~if based on whether~~ it is determined that said first product is not available by querying said product database, determining whether a substitute product is indicated in a substitute table;

~~if based on whether~~ said first product is determined not to have a substitute product indicated in the substitute table, searching for at least one ~~product~~-substitute product in the product database by comparing attributes of the first product to attributes of products in the product database;

~~if based on whether~~ at least one ~~product~~-substitute product is found in the product database, ~~adding the at least one product substitute to the substitute table and~~ sending the customer a recommendation of the at least one ~~product~~-substitute product found in the product database;

receiving approval indicating an approved substitute product selected from among the at least one substitute product found in the product database from the customer in response to the recommendation of ~~the a product at least one substitute product found in the product database~~; and

in response to the approval, saving the approved substitute product in a shopping cart of the customer and adding the approved substitute product to the substitute table such that a future check of the substitute table for the first product would indicate the approved substitute product.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein sending the customer catalog to the customer comprises sending the customer a markup language file including the catalog.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, the method further comprising:

calculating a degree of closeness between the ~~at least one product~~ approved substitute product and the first product; and  
storing the degree of closeness in the substitute table.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein a product is not available is if it is out of stock.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, the method further comprising:

determining whether a particular barcode of the plurality of barcodes is stored in said product database;

if the particular barcode is not stored in said product database, querying at least one code registry to locate a particular ~~product~~-substitute product;

sending the customer a recommendation of the particular ~~product~~-substitute product;

receiving approval from the customer in response to the recommendation of the particular ~~product~~-substitute product; and

in response to the approval from the customer in response to the recommendation of the particular ~~product~~-substitute product, resolving the particular barcode into a product identifier of the particular ~~product~~-substitute product.

30. (Currently Amended) A system for managing scan-based input, comprising:

a product database;

a memory storing a substitute table;

a network interface;

a processor in communication with the product database, the memory, and the network interface, wherein the processor:

receives a plurality of barcodes from a customer;

resolves each of the plurality of barcodes into a corresponding plurality of product identifiers, said plurality of product identifiers stored in the product database;

creates a catalog including the plurality of barcodes and a corresponding plurality of product descriptions arranged such that each barcode of the plurality of barcodes is located in proximity of a product description of the plurality of product descriptions which it identifies;

sends the catalog to the customer;

receives a selection of a first product in response to a barcode of said plurality of barcodes in the catalog being scanned by the customer;

determines whether said first product is available by querying said product database;

if based on whether it is determined that said first product is not available by querying said product database, determines whether a substitute product is indicated in a substitute table;

if based on whether said first product is determined not to have a substitute product indicated in the substitute table, searches for at least one ~~product~~-substitute product in the product database by comparing attributes of the first product to attributes of products in the product database;

if based on whether at least one ~~product~~-substitute product is found in the product database, ~~adds the at least one product substitute to the substitute table and~~ sends the customer a recommendation of the at least one ~~product~~-substitute product found in the product database;

receives approval indicating an approved substitute product selected from among the at least one substitute product found in the product database from the customer in response to the recommendation of the a-product at least one substitute product found in the product database; and

in response to the approval, saves the approved substitute product in a shopping cart of the customer and adds the approved substitute product to the substitute table such that a future check of the substitute table for the first product would indicate the approved substitute product.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein sending the customer catalog to the customer comprises sending the customer a markup language file including the catalog.

32. (Currently Amended)) The system of claim 30, wherein the processor further: calculates a degree of closeness between the ~~at least one product~~ approved substitute product and the first product; and stores the degree of closeness in the substitute table.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein a product is not available is if it is out of stock.

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30, wherein the processor further: determines whether a particular barcode of the plurality of barcodes is stored in said product database;

if the particular barcode is not stored in said product database, queries at least one code registry to locate a particular ~~product~~-substitute product;

sends the customer a recommendation of the particular ~~product~~-substitute product;

receives approval from the customer in response to the recommendation of the particular ~~product~~-substitute product; and

in response to the approval from the customer in response to the recommendation of the particular ~~product~~-substitute product, resolves the particular barcode into a product identifier of the particular ~~product~~-substitute product.